



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

May 28, 2008


Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
From: 
William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Urban Counties Caucus (UCC) Board of Directors Meeting

On May 21, 2008, the UCC Board of Directors convened a meeting at the California State Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Sacramento and took the following actions on issues of County interest:

- **UCC Budget Strategy.** The UCC Board of Directors unanimously adopted the following policy statement to address the State Budget: **"The State Budget must not be balanced with cuts alone. Further, closing the budget shortfall with additional borrowing simply delays resolution of the problem. The continuing structural deficit requires reform of California's system of State-local finance so that both boards of supervisors and the Legislature have the tools necessary to provide the services and facilities necessary to meet the expectations of our citizens."**
- **Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) Parole Realignment Proposal.** The UCC Board of Directors adopted a position to oppose the LAO's proposed realignment of adult parole, unless the proposal is amended to include a reasonable phase-in and an adequate off-budget revenue source that is guaranteed to meet future costs.

- **Governor's Budget Stabilization Act Proposal.** As part of the May Revision, the Governor restated his support for a proposed Constitutional Amendment, the Budget Stabilization Act (BSA), which proposes to address the State's ongoing fiscal problems by limiting spending and granting the Governor authority to make mid-year reductions to reduce the likelihood of future budget deficits. While the BSA proposal has not yet been introduced as legislation, based on various concerns with the BSA draft language proposal and issues raised by a number of State organizations, the LAO, and Legislators, the UCC Board of Directors adopted a position to oppose the Governor's BSA proposal. Concerns with the proposal include mid-year automatic spending reduction authority and the transfer of budget authority from the legislative to the executive branch of State government.

In addition, an announcement was made that Ms. Casey Kaneko, UCC Executive Officer, will retire from her position on December 13, 2008.

County-Opposed Los Angeles City Ordinance Signed by Mayor Villaraigosa

On May 27, 2008, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa signed a Los Angeles City ordinance that will impose a misdemeanor and financial penalty on hospitals for improper discharges of homeless patients. The ordinance will become effective on June 3, 2008. The County and the Hospital Association of Southern California opposed the ordinance and remain concerned that it could jeopardize Federal funding received by hospitals. The Los Angeles City Council has requested the City Attorney to communicate with the appropriate Federal agencies to seek clarification with respect to Medicare/Medicaid payments to hospitals. Staff from the Department of Health Services plan to meet with the City Attorney's Office to ensure that the policies and practices of County hospitals meet the intent of this ordinance.

Status of County-Advocacy Legislation

County-supported AB 2231 (Hayashi), as amended on May 22, 2008, which would: 1) extend the sunset date from January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2015 to allow specified counties to increase fees for vital records and require that the fees be deposited into a domestic violence prevention fund for the oversight and coordination of the domestic violence prevention, intervention and prosecution efforts; and 2) authorize additional counties, including Los Angeles, to increase vital records fees for this purpose, passed the Assembly Floor on May 27, 2008 by a vote of 47 to 31, and now proceeds to the Senate.

County-supported AB 2270 (Laird and Feuer), as amended on May 23, 2008, which would: 1) require the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) to update the targets for utilizing recycled water Statewide every five years; 2) reduce the frequency

of reporting recycled water use by agencies from quarterly to annually; and 3) authorize any local agency that maintains a community sewer system to take action to control residential salinity introduced into the waste water system, passed off of the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on May 22, 2007, as amended, by a vote of 12 to 4, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor. The amendments adopted were technical in nature.

County-opposed AB 2640 (Huffman), as amended on May 23, 2008, which would make all green waste deposited in a landfill, including that used as Alternative Daily Cover (ADC), subject to the State's waste disposal fee of \$1.40 per ton, effective January 1, 2009 and require the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to develop and implement programs that ensure that the amount of green waste currently deposited in landfills in the State annually is 50 percent or less of the amount of green waste disposed or otherwise deposited in landfills during the 2008 calendar year, passed off of the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on May 22, 2007, as amended, by a vote of 11 to 5, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

The amendments: 1) require the CIWMB, in determining whether a jurisdiction is making a good faith effort to implement the source reduction and recycling element, to additionally consider the jurisdiction's efforts in diverting organic materials from disposal or deposit in solid waste landfills; 2) delete the \$1.40 per ton charge for all green waste deposited in a landfill and instead require the operator of a solid waste disposal facility to pay a quarterly fee in the same amount as the State's solid waste tipping fee (currently \$1.40 per ton); 3) require the CIWMB to use the fee revenues to provide competitive grants to operators of new or existing green and food material composting facilities; and 4) specify that the funds imposed on that green material may also be expended for the grant and loan programs already authorized or required to be administered by the CIWMB.

As AB 2640 continues to require the CIWMB to develop and implement programs that ensure that the amount of green waste currently deposited in landfills in the State annually is 50 percent or less of the amount of green waste disposed or otherwise deposited in landfills during the 2008 calendar year, **our Sacramento advocates will continue to oppose AB 2640.**

County-supported AB 2695 (Niello), as amended on April 22, 2008, which would provide solid waste local enforcement agencies with the authority to inspect illegal dumping activities, establish an illegal dumping grant and loan program within the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), and define the term illegal dumping and require the CIWMB to establish a model refuse hauler permitting system for local governments, passed off of the Assembly Appropriations Committee's

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Suspense File on May 22, 2007, by a vote of 17 to 0, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

County-supported AB 2726 (Leno), which would extend the sunset date of the "Healthy Food Purchase" pilot program to January 1, 2012 and permit the use of flexible funding, including Federal funds, to establish the pilot program, passed the Assembly Floor on May 27, 2008, by a vote of 47 to 31, and now proceeds to the Senate Human Services Committee.

County-supported SB 1132 (Migden), as amended on April 9, 2008, which would eliminate the Medi-Cal application requirement for former foster youth as a condition of receiving ongoing Medi-Cal benefits through age 21, passed the Senate on May 27, 2008 by a vote of 29 to 9, and now proceeds to the Assembly.

County-opposed SB 1176 (Perata), as amended on March 25, 2008, which would increase the reporting requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board (WRCB), reduce the membership of regional water quality control boards from nine to seven at-large Governor-appointed members and eliminate members representing county and municipal government, and grant WRCB the ability to withdraw the programmatic authority of regional water boards that consistently fail to exercise adequate control over activities required to be regulated under applicable law, was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on May 22, 2008.

County-supported SB 1516 (Simitian), as amended on April 1, 2008, which would enact the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2010, authorizing the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4 billion for library construction and renovation, and place the measure on the November 2010 Statewide primary ballot, passed the Senate on May 27, 2008 by a vote of 27 to 11 and now proceeds to the Assembly.

County-opposed SB 1717 (Perata), as amended on May 1, 2008, which would increase workers' compensation permanent partial disability payments, was approved by the Senate on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 by a vote of 23 to 14 and now moves to the Assembly where it is expected to be referred to the Insurance Committee.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK:MAL
DD:IGA:hg

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 721
Coalition of County Unions